

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of filtering and storing information describing characteristics of content stored on at least one network device and accessible via a network, said content being potentially useable by a plurality of network rendering devices adapted for rendering content, the method comprising the ~~steps~~ acts of:

[[a)]] periodically filtering information describing characteristics of the stored content to yield filtered information devoid of information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices;

[[b)]] storing, in a content directory, the filtered information devoid of information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of said plurality of network rendering devices;

storing removed information removed by the periodically filtering act in a further directory different from the content directory; and

[[c)]] searching or browsing the content directory to review said filtered information devoid of information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices;

wherein said searching or browsing of the content directory to review said filtered information devoid of information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices, is performed independently of said periodic filtering of information about the content to yield filtered information devoid of information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices, comprises content having a format that is not compatible with any of the plurality of network rendering devices.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices, comprises content having a transport protocol that is not compatible with any of the plurality of network rendering devices.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices, comprises content

having a DRM system that is not supported by any of the plurality of network rendering devices.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said periodic filtering of information about the content to yield filtered information devoid of information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices, is repeated over a predefined time interval.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said periodic filtering of information about the content to yield filtered information devoid of information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices, is performed when a network rendering device of the plurality of network rendering devices is removed from the network.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said periodic filtering of information about the content to yield filtered information devoid of information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices, is performed ~~where~~when a new network rendering device is added to the network.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said

periodic filtering of information about the content to yield filtered information devoid of information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices, is performed upon elapse of a predetermined time interval following removal from the network of a network rendering device of the plurality of network rendering devices.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the network is a UPnP network, and the information describing characteristics of the content is stored by an UPnP content directory service.

22. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said method further comprises the step-act of:

selecting content for transfer via the network to any one of the network rendering devices, wherein said selecting is based on the searching or browsing step-act, and wherein said content selected for transfer is renderable by any of the plurality of network rendering devices.

23. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein ~~said method~~ further the act of storing removed information comprises the step-act of:

periodically filtering information describing characteristics of the content to yield filtered information including information describing characteristics of content that cannot be

rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices, and making available on the network said filtered information including information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices.

24. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said method further comprises the ~~step~~act of:
initiating an action based on said filtered information including information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices, wherein the action comprises any of the following:

- a) upgrading the network;
- b) downloading and/or installing a codec;
- c) adapting a security parameter;
- d) recommending the purchase or upgrade of at least one network rendering device;

and

e) providing a human-perceptible explanation of why content is unusable by the at least one network rendering device.

25. (Currently Amended) A device adapted for filtering and storing information describing characteristics of content accessible via a network, said content being potentially useable by a plurality of network rendering devices adapted for rendering content, the device comprising:

[[a)]] at least one filtering element adapted to periodically filter information describing characteristics of the content to yield filtered information devoid of information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices; and

[[b)]] a storage element containing a content directory including the filtered information devoid of information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices;

wherein the storage element further contains removed information removed by the at least one filtering element in a further directory different from the content directory; and

wherein the content directory is searchable or browseable to enable review of said filtered information devoid of information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices, and searching or browsing of the content directory to review said filtered information devoid of information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices is performed independently of said periodic filtering by the at least one filtering element to yield filtered information devoid of information describing characteristics of content that cannot be rendered by any of the plurality of network rendering devices.

26. (Previously Presented) A media server embodying the device of claim 25.

27. (Previously Presented) A network comprising the device of claim 25 and at least

one network rendering device.

28.(New) The method of claim 13, further comprising the acts of:
accessing the further directory including the removed information; and
determining upgrades of the network based on the accessing act.

29.(New) The method of claim 13, wherein the removed information in the further directory are hidden content hidden from a user when performing the searching or browsing act.

30.(New) The method of claim 13, further comprising the act of providing a human-perceptible explanation of why content removed by the periodically filtering act is unusable by the at least one network rendering device.

31.(New) The method device of claim 25, wherein the further directory including the removed information is accessible for determining upgrades of the network.

32.(New) The device of claim 25, wherein the removed information in the further directory are hidden content hidden from a user, and a human-perceptible explanation is provided to the user of why content removed by the at least one filtering element is unusable by any of the plurality of network rendering devices.